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C·I·B·O·L·A

NATIONAL FOREST

NEW MEXICO

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Picnickers in the Cibola National Forest

F-193761



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
SOUTHWESTERN REGION

1935

Purpose of National Forests

The national forests are created in order to insure a perpetual supply of timber for homes and industries and to prevent the destruction of forest cover which tends to regulate the flow of streams. Their administration provides for the use of the timber, water, forage, wild life, recreational, and other natural resources by the public in a manner that will make their services of the greatest good to the greatest number of people in the long run.



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Forests, if properly harvested and protected are everlasting

CIBOLA NATIONAL FOREST

The Cibola National Forest is located in central and western New Mexico and includes the Sandia and Manzano Mountains and the Chupadera Mesa east of the Rio Grande, Mount Taylor, Mount Powell, and the Zuni, Datil, San Mateo, and Magdalena Mountains on the west.

Surrounded by great expanses of lower treeless plains, the higher wooded slopes of the eight mountainous divisions of this forest provide timber and water which are of vital importance to the general development of the central and western parts of the State.

From the east to the west boundary of the forest is 150 miles, or nearly one-half the distance across the State. A similar expanse is covered from the north to the south boundary. Most of the forest area lies on the east side of the Continental Divide. A portion of the Zuni Division, however, lies on the west slope and extends to within 30 miles of the Arizona State line. The forest includes parts of eight counties: Catron, Bernalillo, Sandoval, Sierra, Socorro, McKinley, Valencia, and Torrance, and embraces a gross area of 2,289,100 acres.

Elevations in the forest range from 5,000 feet in the southern portion, 30 miles north of Hot Springs, to more than 11,000 feet on the summit of Mount Taylor, some 75 miles west of Albuquerque.

HISTORY

The area in and adjacent to the Cibola National Forest was first known to European civilization in 1539 when Friar Marcos de Niza made an expedition from Mexico City in search of the Seven Cities of the Cibola.

A Negro by the name of Estevan, with 300 Indians, made up the advance guard of Friar Marcos. He reached a large village—no doubt Ha-wai-kuh, near the present village of Zuni—but the Indians here were unfriendly. They captured Estevan, murdered him and all but two or three of the Indians who accompanied him. The Indians who escaped returned and reported the massacre to Friar Marcos. The Friar was not without courage so he proceeded on to a high hill within sight of the village. From this vantage point he surveyed his surroundings, raised a heap of stone at the top of which he placed a small cross, and formally took possession of the country in the name of the Viceroy and the Emperor, and gave it the name of St. Francis in honor of the founder of his order.

In 1540 Coronado camped at the Indian village of Ha-wai-kuh, the village seen by Friar Marcos the year before, but not without bloody battles with the Indians. From here he sent exploring parties to various areas which are now



Indian life today is much as it was in Coronado's day

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After taking out the mature trees there is a good stand left

included in the Cibola National Forest, and spent the winter in the Rio Grande Valley, in the vicinity of the present town of Bernalillo.

On account of the disastrous results of Coronado's expedition, no explorations were made in this part of the southwest for a period of 40 years.

Modern developments of the Cibola region began with the building of the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad, now the A. T. & S. F., in the early eighties. The name Cibola was taken from the chronicle of early Spanish expeditions to discover the famous "Seven Cities." It is believed to be an Indian word for buffalo, and is pronounced See-bo-la.

ADMINISTRATION

The Cibola National Forest is one of 13 in New Mexico and Arizona which make up the Southwestern Region of the U. S. Forest Service under the general supervision of the Regional Forester, Albuquerque, N. Mex. It is, however, under the supervision of a forest supervisor who maintains an office and staff in the Federal Building at Albuquerque, N. Mex.

The Cibola Forest, which was formed out of the Manzano and northern half of the Datil, is divided into seven ranger districts. These districts cover areas varying from 120,900 to 402,000 acres and each one is under the supervision of a district ranger, who is in reality the business manager of his district, being in close contact with conditions on the ground as well as with the local people. His duties are many

and varied. Besides the important task of protecting the forest from fire, he must supervise the recreational uses of the forest, the proper grazing of livestock so that there will be no damage to the forage and other ground cover which protects the watersheds, make timber sales, and mark and scale the timber, build and maintain telephone lines, roads and trails, and other forest improvements, and attend to many kinds of forest business as it arises. His work necessarily takes him into every part of his district, thus enabling him to give reliable information to forest visitors as to location of camp sites, permanent waters, fishing streams, hunting areas, and the conditions of roads and trails. Any information relating to the forests or forest business is always gladly given both by the rangers and by the Forest Supervisor's office.

The addresses of the forest rangers on this forest are:

Sandia Ranger District	
Tijeras Star Route, Albuquerque, N. Mex.	
Mountainair Ranger District	Mountainair, N. Mex.
Magdalena Ranger District	Magdalena, N. Mex.
San Augustine Ranger District	Magdalena, N. Mex.
Red Rock Ranger District	Monticello, N. Mex.
Mount Taylor Ranger District	Grants, N. Mex.
Zuni Ranger District	McGaffey, N. Mex.

FOREST RESOURCES

TIMBER

Timber, raised as a crop, is one of the important resources of the Cibola Forest. It is estimated that there is a stand of 982,000,000 board feet of mature sawtimber in the forest and a cordwood stand, consisting of pinon, juniper, and oak, totaling 3,400,000 cords.

Besides numerous small sawmills operating on the forest, there are three large sales: The Breece Lumber Co., which cuts timber in the Zuni Mountains west of Grants, N. Mex., and



Mountainair Ranger Station

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Sheep, "shading up"

hauls the logs by train to Albuquerque where the sawmill is operated; the Big Chief Lumber Co., located on Mount Taylor near Grants; and the Arlo D Squires operation near McGaffey. The sawmills of the two last-named operations are located near where the timber is cut.

The highest use of the timber land in the forest is for the production of timber crops. It is the policy of the Forest Service, therefore, to leave the cut-over areas in a productive condition so as to insure future timber crops. Timber stands on the forest contain material of all ages, from seedlings to overmature and decadent trees. Only the mature and overmature trees are removed. Thrifty young trees, and, where necessary, seed trees are left to reseed the cut-over area and insure a new crop for future cutting. This method of harvesting the timber, known as selective cutting, provides for another cut on the same land in from 60 to 75 years and insures a supply of accessible timber at least for all local and domestic needs.

GRASS

One of the important industries in New Mexico is stock raising. The Cibola National Forest issues permits each year covering the grazing of 20,000 head of cattle and horses and 52,000 head of sheep and goats. There are also grazed free of charge 3,000 head of work and milk stock belonging to local residents.

An intensive survey has been made of the range resource of the forest, including all the factors that enter into its proper use. The facts accumulated have been used as a basis for a range management plan for each natural grazing unit. The principal objects of these plans are to

improve the forage on areas that have suffered from past abuse, to protect the ranges, forests, and watersheds from overgrazing, and to harvest the forage crop annually by grazing on a sustained yield basis in such a way that it contributes to a permanent, profitable livestock business. Management plans show for each range unit whether it is better suited to sheep or to cattle, the number of such stock for which sufficient forage can be provided each year, the season during which the forage can best be utilized, and the methods of handling the stock on the range. They show also what range improvements are necessary to obtain the highest possible use of the native feed consistent with the permanent maintenance of the forage crop and the proper safeguarding of other interrelated resources and interests.

WATERSHED VALUES

One of the most important services of the Cibola Forest is watershed protection, which affects two large irrigation projects, the Elephant Butte and Rio Grande Conservancy, and safeguards the municipal water supply of the city of Magdalena. During the eighties large numbers of stock, both sheep and cattle, were brought into what is now the Cibola National Forest and turned loose to roam and graze at will. As a result, parts of the watersheds were overgrazed to such an extent that the grass cover began to disappear rapidly from the ranges. This overgrazing, coupled with the unregulated cutting of timber in the early days, soon became apparent in badly eroded hillsides and the rapid run-off of destructive flood waters formerly held back to a great extent by the luxuriant ground cover and stored in the soil. These floods in turn caused the silting of irrigation dams and projects.

Management plans for growing and harvesting timber and for grazing are now made and



A good ground cover is the best protection on a watershed

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Flood which destroyed San Marcial

administered with watershed protection always uppermost and correlated to best serve the use of the valuable water resource of the forest.

RECREATION

The location of this forest, adjacent to the well-settled Rio Grande valley and other valleys, and numerous sizable towns, together with its high elevations and cool temperatures, its magnificent scenery, beautiful natural campsites, and wild life, makes it very valuable for recreation. Camping is free anywhere on the forest, the only restrictions being the exercise of care with fire and the observance of State and Federal laws and the ordinary standards of sanitation.

During 1933 the Civilian Conservation Corps, located in the Sandia Mountains, made many improvements for the convenience of the public



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Camping along the Sandia Loop



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Tree spring—a unique water development—Sandia Loop

at camp grounds and picnic areas, such as construction of fireplaces, picnic tables and benches, shelters, improvement of springs, and fencing of the areas to exclude livestock, which would not have been possible under ordinary appropriations for a number of years. The men from the camps were also responsible for a great deal of scenic road development and improvement.

WILD LIFE

The wild life of southwestern New Mexico is one of its chief attractions. Timbered areas in the Cibola National Forest contain some of the best breeding grounds in New Mexico for deer, turkey, and bear.

Mule and whitetail deer are abundant, especially on the western portion of the forest. Arizona whitetail deer, beaver, bear, turkey, and antelope are also found. Smaller game animals, such as the tassel-eared squirrel, are numerous. Four different herds of prong-horned antelope, numbering in all about 800 head, are found in as many different localities, on and near this forest, in the vicinity of North Lake, Milligan Gulch, Ojo Caliente, and Nogal Canyon, but hunting of these animals, except for a specified number, is prohibited by State law. This prohibition also extends to a number of game refuges wholly or partly within the Cibola National Forest, which serve as breeding grounds where game may thrive under protection and furnish hunting for adjacent territory.

Mountain lion and bear are also hunted, but bear can only be hunted during the open season.

Game on this forest yearly furnishes sport and outdoor recreation for more than 700 hunters who come from New Mexico and adjoining States.

POINTS OF INTEREST IN OR NEAR THE CIBOLA NATIONAL FOREST

ALBUQUERQUE

Albuquerque, the metropolis of New Mexico and county seat of Bernalillo County, is located 9 miles west of the Sandia Mountains in the valley of the Rio Grande. It is accessible by the main line of the A. T. & S. F. R. R., Transcontinental Western Air, and three main highways, U.S. 66, U.S. 85, and U.S. 366, and has a large up-to-date municipal airport for use of private planes. On account of its excellent climate it is well known as a health center. A \$1,250,000 Veterans Bureau hospital is located here, as well as numerous private hospitals and sanatoria. Although the present city is modern, having been founded (1880) since the Sante Fe Railroad was completed, the villa of Albuquerque, commonly known as "Old Town", a picturesque adobe village to the west of the new town, dates back to the early Spanish regime. It was founded about 1706 and named in honor of the Duke of Albuquerque, then Viceroy of the Spanish dominions in the New World. On the west side of the plaza is the old church of San Felipe, built about the date of the founding of the village and named for the city's patron saint.

GALLUP

Gallup is about 12 miles west of the old Fort Wingate Division of the Cibola, generally known as the Zuni Mountains. It is the center of the rich coal fields and is an important trading point for Indian blankets and wares from the Navajo and Zuni Indian Reservations. An Indian fair, which has become an established feature, visited by thousands of tourists annually, is held each year in August.

MANZANO

The village of Manzano is on the eastern side of the Manzano division of the forest, about 20 miles northwest from Willard, N. Mex. Some 250 years ago an orchard of apple trees was set out here, probably by the Franciscan Fathers of Quarai, and in 1825 when the village was founded it was named Manzano, the Spanish name for apple.

ISLETA

This Pueblo village, 12 miles south of Albuquerque, was established about 1681 after the abandonment of the old village nearby. The main highway passes through a portion of the village, leaving the principal feature, the church, to the south. On the fete day, that of St. Augustine, observed on August 28, the village is visited by many travelers and nearby residents. On that day practically the entire population of Isleta is in full regalia and devotes the day to outdoor sports after a Mass in the church.

ACOMA

The sky city of the Southwest was an ancient pueblo when the Spanish explorer Coronado visited it in 1540. Scene of countless bloody battles, it now reposes tranquil and aloof, perched on a high mesa about 15 miles south from Laguna, N. Mex. Seen from a distance, the mesa blends in with the surrounding landscape and only as the place is closely approached do the houses and the church appear conspicuously against the skyline.

LAGUNA

Founded by refugees from Acoma, Sia, Cochiti, and other Indian pueblos in 1699, Laguna pueblo is on the main highway between Albuquerque and Gallup, 70 miles from the former. The main highway passes along the north edge of the town, which is built on low-lying hills along a permanent watercourse.

EL MORRO

El Morro, or Inscription Rock, has been used as a register from prehistoric times. Ancient pictures and writings are seen near the historic Spanish signatures, while on the summit of the rock itself are the ruins of an old pueblo with



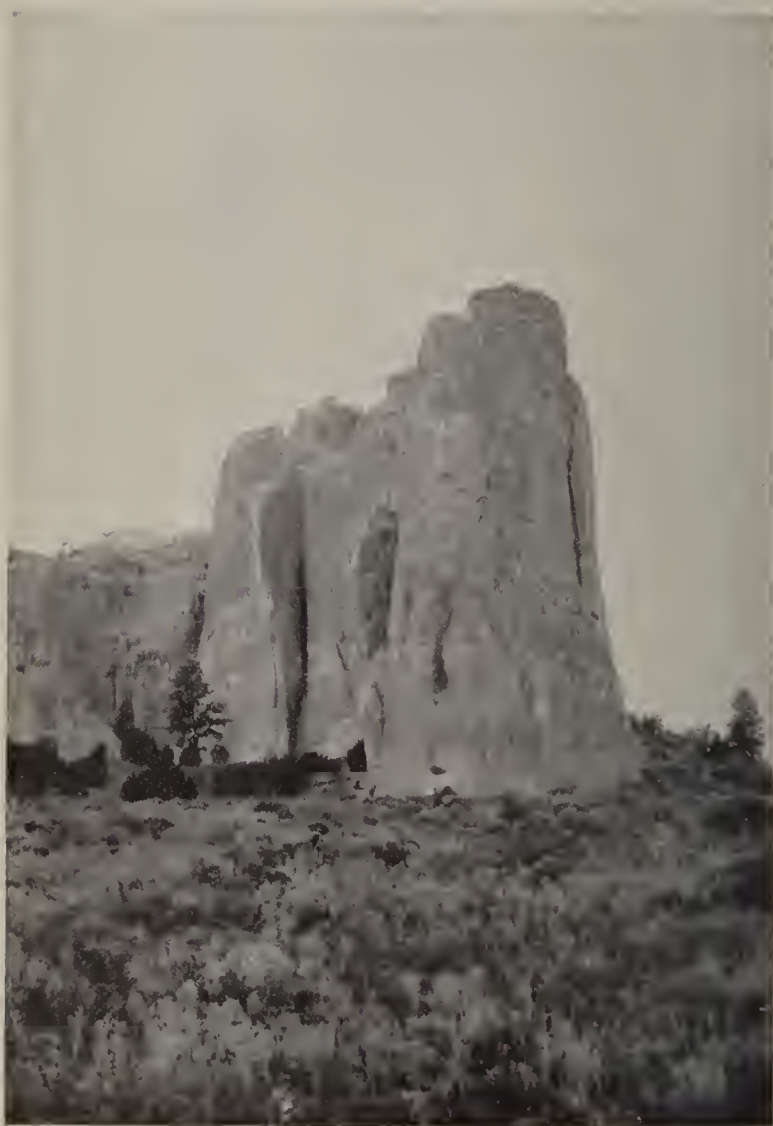
A section of the "Old Apple Orchard" at Manzano

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characteristic pottery chips on the surface. The oldest authentic record is that of Onate, who recorded that he passed by the place April 16, 1606. A number of slightly later Spanish writings can be found around the base of the rock with, of course, the vandalism of the modern white man who has cut his name alongside the historic ones. El Morro is now a National Monument under National Park supervision, with a custodian at Ramah. It can be reached readily by automobile from either Gallup or Grants, where further information may be secured as to the best route. On the road between Ramah and San Rafael a sign indicates some ice caves in the lava formation which are well worth seeing.

GRAN QUIVIRA

The National Monument of Gran Quivira lies about 25 miles from Mountainair, which is on the Belen Cutoff of the Santa Fe Railroad. Built on the site of a prehistoric pueblo, the Gran Quivira was founded as a Franciscan Mis-



El Morro National Monument

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The village of Zuni

sion in the sixteenth century. In 1649 a second, larger church and convent was started but was never used or finished. In common with several other localities in the Southwest, this ruin became the center for efforts of treasure hunters several years ago, but their efforts resulted only in finds of arrowheads and broken pottery.

ZUNI

Halona, one of the far-famed Seven Cities of Cibola (for which the Spanish searched in their quest for gold and other treasure), lies across the Zuni River from the present pueblo of Zuni. The Zunis have held largely to their own religion and customs and are well worth a visit. Religious ceremonies and dances of the various clans are all carried through for a definite purpose, such as celebrating the harvest or propitiating the gods for much-needed rain. The pueblo can be reached readily by automobile from Gallup or Grants, where full directions for the route may be obtained.

MAGDALENA

Magdalena, with a population of about 800 people, is noted throughout the West as being one of the largest shipping points for livestock in the United States. During the shipping season large herds of stock are driven across the San Augustine plains from the range country which lies to the west.

MONTICELLO

Monticello, a small town, Spanish in character, in the midst of a farming community along the Alamosa River bottom, gives a touch of the Old World atmosphere with its quaint plaza. One mile up the river is a flour mill run by a large water wheel.

OLD FORT OJO CALIENTE

Old Fort Ojo Caliente, the ruins of a frontier Army post, which was established in the eighties during the Indian Wars, is located near Hot Springs on the Alamosa River, about 65 miles from Magdalena. Crumbling ruins of adobe walls still remain on the banks of the stream, which is fed by large hot-water springs. Just below the ruins, the water enters a narrow gorge between towering rock walls.

ELEPHANT BUTTE RESERVOIR

Elephant Butte Reservoir (Bench Mark Hall Lake), 15 miles east of the San Mateo Mountains and extending up the Rio Grande Valley a distance of 40 miles, has a storage capacity of 2,600,000 acre-feet, and when filled, has a surface area of 40,000 acres. The Elephant Butte Dam is reached by an automobile road and is only 1 mile from the El Paso-Albuquerque Highway. Warm-water fishing and boat trips are the main attractions for the traveler aside from the view of the lake and dam.

LOOP DRIVE FROM ALBUQUERQUE

A 70-mile loop motor trip from Albuquerque as the starting point is open during 7 or 8 months of the year over the Sandia Loop. This trip includes 30 miles of cement highway, connecting with a fair county road in the lower country. Part of the way is over a standard 12-foot Forest Service road through spruce, pine, and fir, within 6 miles of the 10,400-foot elevation of Sandia Peak.

SANDIA RIM DRIVE

The traveler may turn off about midway of the loop drive and take what is known as the



The famous Elephant Butte Dam

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Along the Sandia Loop Drive

Rim Drive. This excellent road winds through cool sylvan glades, a distance of about 6 miles to the crest of the Sandia Mountains. Deer and wild turkeys are frequently seen en route. From the crest a magnificent panorama of valleys and mountains meets the eye. To the east and southeast may be seen the Estancia Valley with Gallinas Peak at the southern end and the Tularosa Valley and lofty Sierra Blanca, and in the far distance—about 125 miles away—the Capitan Mountains. To the northward are the beautiful Sangre de Cristo Mountains, which reach an altitude of approximately 13,000 feet, Jemez Mountains, and Cabezón, which is one of the largest extinct volcanic cores in the world. To the southwest may be seen the Magdalena and San Mateo Mountains, more than 100 miles away. Mount Taylor looms up in the far-distant west, and the city of Albuquerque resembles so many playhouses. Cars on the pavement east of the town look like ants running to and fro, and the Rio Grande is a silver thread winding its way through the valley cottonwoods.

MAGDALENA MOUNTAINS

The Magdalena Mountains to the south of Magdalena furnish a variety of rugged scenery, which is accessible by secondary roads into Water, Hop, and Mills Canyons. South Baldy, one of the highest peaks on the Cibola National

Forest, may be reached by trail. From here, at an elevation of about 10,000 feet, there is a wonderful panoramic view of the Rio Grande Valley, Elephant Butte Lake, San Augustine Plains, and surrounding mountain areas.

On Mount Mary Magdalena, 2 miles south of Magdalena, the peculiar form of a large rock slide in the center of the northeast face of the mountain, has produced the illusion of a woman's face, which can be seen from the highway east of Magdalena. From this image the town and mountain range derive the name.

FOREST FIRES AND THEIR PREVENTION

Forest fires are and always have been a great destructive agency. The Cibola Forest has a high fire hazard because of pine needles and bunch grass. Such grazing use as will adequately maintain the important watershed cover and the forage crop will leave unutilized a considerable part of the annual growth of the bunch grasses. Many of the forest fires in the past have been caused by camp fires left burning or by unextinguished matches or tobacco dropped on the inflammable litter of the forest floor. Fires started in such ways are easily preventable, since they are caused by carelessness or disregard of public safety.

During the spring and early summer, or what is known as the normal fire season, fire guards, packers, and trail crews are employed, and constitute a special protective force which assists



A "dead" fire is the mark of a veteran camper

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A burned forest is a wasted resource

the rangers in the detection and extinguishing of forest fires. Fire-lookout towers, built on prominent peaks and connected by telephone with district ranger's and supervisor's headquarters and manned by a fire lookout, are also important in the protective system. Quick response to fire calls is the paramount duty of the entire forest personnel and its construction and maintenance crews. Volunteer and cooperative agencies which are of much assistance in fighting fires, are also interwoven in the general scheme of control and respond as needed.

Do **your** part in helping to prevent damage to **your** forests by observing the following **six rules for preventing fire in the forest.**

1. **Matches.**—Be sure your match is out. Break it in two before you throw it away.
2. **Tobacco.**—Be sure that pipe ashes and cigar or cigarette stubs are dead before throwing them away. Never throw them into brush, leaves, or needles.
3. **Making camp.**—Before building a fire, scrape away all inflammable material from a spot 5 feet in diameter. Dig a hole in the center and in it build your camp fire. Keep your fire small. Never build it against trees or logs or near brush.
4. **Breaking camp.**—Never break camp until your fire is out—dead out.
5. **Brush burning.**—Never burn slash or brush in windy weather or while there is the slightest danger that the fire will get away.
6. **How to put out a camp fire.**—Stir the coals while soaking them with water. Turn small sticks and drench both sides. Wet the ground around the fire. If you can't get water stir in earth and tread it down until packed tight over and around the fire. Be sure the last spark is dead.

If you find a fire burning endeavor to extinguish it, and should it become too large for you to handle notify the nearest forest officer immediately.

Every camper should carry a serviceable shovel and light ax. These tools are not only useful around a camp in preparing a proper fire, trenching around the tents and chopping fuel, but are also of great assistance in combating any possible forest fires.

HOW THE FORESTS BENEFIT

Forests not only furnish lumber and other forest products for public consumption and economical recreation for thousands of people each year, but they also help in a direct financial way by furnishing employment for thousands of men in local communities on forest activities, such as sawmills, stock raising, forest improvements, hauling in supplies for campers, and acting as guides. It is estimated that each hunter or camper, in addition to purchasing supplies from local merchants, spends an average of \$5 for gasoline and car upkeep alone in the vicinity in which he camps.

Twenty-five percent of the net proceeds received for all forest products are paid into the treasury of the county in which they are collected to be used in maintaining the roads and schools of that county. An additional 10 percent is used for road building on the national forests, so that 35 percent in all of the receipts returns directly to the benefit of the local national forest communities.



Picking out their own Christmas trees

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